



### HEPATITIS E VIRUS

#### **What is HEPATITIS E?**

Hepatitis E causes inflammation of the liver. It is rare in the United States and there are no long-term chronic effects.

#### **What are the symptoms of Hepatitis E Virus?**

The symptoms of Hepatitis E virus include fatigue, poor appetite, fever, vomiting and occasionally joint pain, hives or rash. Urine may become darker in color, and then jaundice (a yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes) may appear. Some individuals may experience few or no symptoms. Symptoms usually appear two to nine weeks after exposure, but usually within 40 days.

#### **Who is at risk for Hepatitis E Virus?**

The most at risk for Hepatitis E infection are people who travel to or spend time in developing countries.

#### **How is Hepatitis E Virus spread?**

Hepatitis E virus is transmitted through the fecal-oral route. This means that you get the infection by eating or drinking something that was contaminated with feces. Outbreaks in other countries are associated with contaminated water supplies.

#### **Is there a vaccine available for Hepatitis E Virus?**

Currently there is no vaccine available for Hepatitis E virus.

#### **How can Hepatitis E Virus be prevented?**

The best way to prevent Hepatitis E virus is to avoid drinking or using potentially contaminated water.